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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 TRSE-00 OMB-01 COME-00 EB-08 AID-05 IO-14
/115 W
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R 131106Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2758
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
CINCPAC

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 10722

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR IN TU
SUBJECT: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER'S PRESS CONFERENCE

REF: NEW DELHI 10561

1. SUMMARY. AT A PRESS CONFERENCE JULY 12, TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER OKCUN REPORTEDLY EXPLAINED WHY TURKEY WOULD QUALIFY AS A GUEST AT NAM MEETINGS, SAID THAT TURKEY DID NOT PROPOSE TO QUIT NATO AND CENTO "FOR THE TIME BEING," AND EXPRESSED SOME RESERVATIONS ABOUT
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THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PLANNING OF NATO. HE ALSO COMMENTED ON US ARMS EMBARGO, GREECE, CYPRUS, AND THE SOVIET UNION. END SUMMARY.

2. THE NON-ALIGNED: OCKUN SAID THAT HE HAD SOUNDED INDIA AND YUGOSLAVIA ABOUT TURKEY'S DESIRE FOR GUEST STATUS AT THE NON ALIGNED MEETINGS AND WOULD HAVE FURTHER

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TALKS WITH OTHER NAM COUNTRIES. HOWEVER, HE SAID, BECAUSE
OF THE TIME FACTOR IT MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE FOR TURKEY TO
ATTEND THE BELGRADE MINISTERIAL MEETING BUT HE WAS
HOPEFUL ABOUT SUBSEQUENT SESSIONS. CITING THE GUEST STATUS
GIVEN FOR PREVIOUS MEETINGS TO ROMANIA AND PORTUGAL,
OCKUN SAID THAT ALTHOUGH TURKEY WAS A MEMBER OF A
COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM, CONDITIONS HAD CHANGED SINCE
IT IS NOW AN ERA OF DETENTE AND TURKEY WANTED TO DEVELOP
ITS RELATIONS WITH THE NON-ALIGNED. HE SAID THAT HE
UNDERSTOOD INDIAS REACTION TO TURKEY'S REQUEST WAS POSITIVE.
OCKUN DID NOT SEE ANY LINKAGE BETWEEN THE SIMILAR REQUESTS
OF PAKISTAN AND TURKEY FOR GUEST STATUS.

3. NATO AND CENTO: REPLYING TO A QUESTION, OKUN SAID
THAT TURKEY DID NOT PROPOSE TO QUIT NATO AND CENTO "FOR
THE TIME BEING". PEACE AND STABILITY IN THESE REGIONS
DEPENDED ON "A VERY DELICATE BALANCE" AND IT WAS IMPORTANT
TO ACHIEVE DETENTE WITHOUT DISTURBING THE BALANCE. MEMBERSHIP
IN THESE ALLIANCES WERE STILL USEFUL FOR TURKEY BUT
"THE MORE YOU STRENGTHEN DETENTE THE MORE THE COLLECTIVE
SECURITY SYSTEM WOULD GET OUTLIVED." OCKUN SAID THAT
TURKEY HAD MADE CLEAR ITS RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE LONG-
TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM OF NATO AND THAT IN VIEW OF THE
FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES OF TURKEY IT WOULD BE HARD FOR
HIS COUNTRY TO ADHERE TO THE PROGRAM. WE BELIEVE OUR
CONTRIBUTION TO NATO SHOULD NOT BE BIGGER THAN NATO'S
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CONTRIBUTION TO TURKEY, HE REPORTEDLY SAID.

4. US ARMS EMBARGO: OCKUN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING "IT
WOULD NOT BE THE END OF THE WORLD IF THE EMBARGO IS NOT
LIFTED." IT WAS A PROBLEM FOR THE US CONGRESS TO DEAL
WITH BUT TURKEY WAS FACED WITH THE EMBARGO BECAUSE OF
THE CYPRUS PROBLEM AND FELT THAT UNLESS THE EMBARGO WAS
LIFTED GREECE WOULD NOT AGREE TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS.

5. GREECE AND CYPRUS: OCKUN SAID THAT THEY HAD CLOSE
COLLABORATION WITH BULGARIA WHICH WAS A MEMBER OF A
DIFFERENT COLLECTIVE SECURITY SYSTEM BUT PROBLEMS WITH GREECE,
A NATO MEMBER. THESE PROBLEMS HE LISTED AS GREECE'S
BANNING OF INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS THROUGH THE AEGEAN
AIRSPACE, DELIMITATION OF THE CONTINENTAL SHELF, AND
GREEK FAILURE TO HONOR DEMILITARIZATION IN THE AEGEAN
AGREED TO UNDER EARLIER TREATIES. ACCORDING TO ONE
REPORT, HOWEVER, OCKUN SAID HE DID NOT THINK THESE PROBLEMS
WERE INSURMOUNTABLE AND COULD BE SOLVED THROUGH GOODWILL
AND DETERMINATION. HE REITERATED TURKEY'S POSITION ON
CYPRUS, MENTIONED RECENT TURKISH-CYPRIOT PROPOSALS SENT TO
UN SECRETARY GENERAL, AND SAID TURKEY WAS AWAITING FOR

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ANOTHER CALL BY WALDHEIM FOR THE TWO CYPRIOT
COMMUNITIES TO ENTER DISCUSSIONS.

6. SOVIET UNION: OCKUN REFERRED TO RECENT TURKO-SOVIET
TALKS AND SAID THE RELATIONSHIP WAS BASED ON
CONFIDENCE AND THAT THE POLITICAL DOCUMENT WHICH HAD BEEN
SIGNED WAS BASED ON THE FINAL ACT OF THE HELSINKI ACCORD.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEMBERSHIP, PRESS CONFERENCES, NONALIGNED NATIONS MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NEWDE10722
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780290-0071
Format: TEL
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780764/aaaacbzk.tel
Line Count: 124
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0451da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 NEW DELHI 10561
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2021318
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKISH FOREIGN MINISTER\'S PRESS CONFERENCE
TAGS: PEPR, IN, TU, NACC
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0451da75-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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